



United States Department of Interior  
111 Garryowen Road

Bureau of Land Management

Miles City Field Office  
Miles City, Montana 59301

Contact: Dan Benoit, BLM Geologist  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Comment Sought for Bentonite Mine Environmental Assessment**

ALZADA – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Miles City Field Office and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) are seeking public review and comment on an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact for a proposed bentonite mine plan amendment.

The BLM and DEQ will accept comments on the jointly prepared document for a 30-day period ending October 13, 2004.

American Colloid Company submitted a proposal to amend its bentonite mining plan located near Alzada, in Carter County.

The amendment proposes adding 1,487 acres to the 3,600 acres already under permit with the State of Montana. According to the proposal, 686 acres would be disturbed by mining of which 205 acres are federal lands managed by the BLM.

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The American Colloid Company is headquartered in Belle Fourche, S.D. and has been mining bentonite in the Alzada area since 1977.

To obtain a copy of the EA or to submit comments, contact BLM Solid Minerals Geologist Dan Benoit, BLM Miles City Field Office, 111 Garryowen Road, Miles City, MT 59301. Or by email at: [dbenoit@mt.blm.gov](mailto:dbenoit@mt.blm.gov).

Copies of the EA are also available online at: <http://www.mt.blm.gov/mcfo/index.html>.

For further information, contact Dan Benoit at the BLM Miles City Field Office; (406) 233-3646, or Jo Stephen at the Montana DEQ Billings office; (406)247-4435.

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